

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00351 251526Z

51

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 ACDE-00 AECE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 L-01

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0538

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0351

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: DEALING WITH PRESS LEAK ON EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL

1. EAST HAS LEAKED TO PRESS FACT THAT IT HAS PRESENTED AN INITIAL STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL IN VIENNA MBFR TALKS. POLISH PRESS OFFICER TOLD AUSTRIAN PRESS AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE FOLLOWING OCTOBER 24 PLENARY THAT EAST HAD JUST PRESENTED A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL IN INFORMAL SESSION TO BRIDGE EXISTING DIFFERENCES AND MOVE THE TALKS AHEAD, SO THAT A START ON DISARMAMENT BY REDUCTIONS OF 2 PERCENT OR LESS COULD BE MADE IN 1975. THIS ITEM HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY VARIOUS PRESS SERVICES AND PUBLISHED IN AUSTRIAN AND EUROPEAN PRESS.

2. ALLIED PRESS SPOKESMEN HAVE RESPONDED TO THE
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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00351 251526Z

QUESTION WHETHER THE EAST HAD PUT FORWARD ANY

NEW PROPOSALS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: THERE ARE NO MAJOR NEW POINTS. WE HAVE RECENTLY HEARD A RE-FORMULATION OF EASTERN IDEAS WHICH HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY FLOATED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS IN THE POST.

3. WE HAVE WORKED OUT WITH UK AND FRG REPS THE PRELIMINARY RESPONSES TO POSSIBLE FOLLOW-ON QUESTIONS DESCRIBED BELOW.

4. IT IS POSSIBLE THE EAST WILL PUT FORWARD THE INITIAL STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL IN THE OCTOBER 31 PLENARY SESSION, WHICH MARKS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, AND USE IT AS THE BASIS FOR A SIZEABLE PROPAGANDA EFFORT. AD HOC GROUP WILL WORK OUT PRESS LINE FOR THIS CONTINGENCY WHICH WE WILL FORWARD TO ADDRESSEES.

BEGIN TEXT OF FOLLOW ON QUESTIONS:

POSSIBLE QUESTION: HASN'T THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE PRESENT EASTERN POSITION FROM THE EASTERN NOVEMBER 8 PROPOSAL?

SUGGESTED REPLY: YES, IN ONE PROCEDURAL RESPECT. THE EAST NOW ENVISAGES TWO SEPARATE AND SUCCESSIVE AGREEMENTS. BUT THE CONTENT OF THEIR REDUCTION PROPOSALS REMAINS EXACTLY THE SAME AND DOES NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF WESTERN INTERESTS, INCLUDING THE NEED TO DEAL WITH FORCE LEVEL DISPARITIES AND GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES.

POSSIBLE QUESTION: NONETHELESS, ISN'T EASTERN AGREEMENT TO TWO SEPARATE AGREEMENTS AN IMPORTANT MOVE TOWARD THE WESTERN POSITION?

SUGGESTED REPLY: NO, BECAUSE EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THE CONTENT. AND HERE, AS WE HAVE SAID, THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY MOVEMENT.

POSSIBLE QUESTION: WHAT HAS THE WEST DONE TO MOVE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MBFR V 00351 251526Z

NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD RECENTLY? HAS THE WEST MOVED FROM ITS ORIGINAL POSITION?

SUGGESTED REPLY: YES, ON THE ISSUE OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET, WHICH HAS BEEN THE MAIN SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN RECENT MONTHS, WE HAVE PUT FORWARD SEVERAL PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO MEET EASTERN CONCERNS. WE THINK THESE PROPOSALS REPRESENT

A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PREGRESS OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE STILL AWAITING COMMENSURATE
EASTERN MOVES. END TEXT. RESOR

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